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## Literacy activities in Missouri public libraries

**O**ver 40 librarians and local literacy providers in Missouri met at the spring Library Literacy Gatherings around the state to discuss literacy efforts and share ideas. The State Library sponsors these gatherings twice a year to help library staff keep current with new developments in the field and to provide a venue for networking with other literacy providers.

Local situations and resources vary widely, so library literacy activities also vary a great deal across the state. Recent changes that affect literacy activities in Missouri libraries include changes in the state-funded adult education programs, the growth of family literacy in Missouri, the new GED (General Equivalency Degree) test, the growing immigrant population, and the American Library Association's increased interest in literacy.

Libraries are naturally placed to collaborate with and support local literacy programs and community literacy efforts. The variety of library literacy efforts and the impact of local situations were discussed along with ideas "from the trenches" for local literacy activities. Participants also discussed the dilemmas faced by communities without any organized adult education or literacy programs and agreed that seeking solutions to this situation should be a priority for both literacy and library communities.

Missouri library literacy efforts include:

- Active participation in local literacy consortia
- Special storytimes for daycare centers and programs such as Parents as Teachers
- Providing space and/or materials for local volunteer literacy councils and their students; recommendations for books and materials
- Hosting AEL (Adult Education and Literacy) tutors and students
- Referrals to programs and tutors
- Deposit collections or rotating collections of books sent to daycare centers, adult education classrooms, or family literacy centers
- Homework helpers programs, both formal and informal, and intentional collaboration between schools or school libraries and public libraries
- Local partnership with groups such as Cooperative Extension, Success by Six, Caring Communities, Parents as Teachers, Practical Parenting Partnerships, Even Start
- Materials that go with Accelerated Reader, Reading Recovery, etc. used in local schools
- Special teacher library cards that allow loans of large quantities of material for classroom use or tutoring groups without tying up the teacher's personal library card
- Bringing state or national programming such as Read from the Start or Between the Lions to the community
- Loan of GED books and educational materials at easy reading levels (unfortunately, the loss level for GED books is high) and access to online GED materials
- Adult new reader collections or special collections such as a parenting collection or job seekers resources that unobtrusively include books at low reading levels
- Workshops such as how to help with homework, how to survive a science project, how to help your child be a better reader, tell your own story (for adults)
- Reading clubs for all ages, sometimes with incentives or rewards from local businesses, and summer reading programs for children, youth and teens, and for individuals, families, and groups

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## Literacy activities

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- Home schooling programs and related services
- Recruitment and/or training of volunteers to help in local literacy efforts
- Lending developmental toys
- Family Literacy Nights and other similar events

Spring 2001 Library Literacy Gatherings were held March 30 at the Joplin Public Library; April 5 at the student union at Missouri Western State College in St. Joseph co-hosted by Pass the Power Adult Literacy and River Bluffs Regional Library; April 10 at the Sikeston Public Library; April 12 at the Windsor Branch of Jefferson County Library in Barnhart, and April 25 at the Mexico Public Library.

Another round of Literacy Gatherings at different sites is planned for fall. Librarians and literacy organization representatives will once again be invited to attend for idea sharing, discussion, and networking. Information may be obtained from Karen Jones, the State Library's literacy consultant, at 800-325-0131, ext. 11 or [jonesk@sosmail.state.mo.us](mailto:jonesk@sosmail.state.mo.us).

## Teen Read Week 2001

"Make Reading a Hobbit," the theme for Teen Read Week 2001, celebrates the popularity of fantasy literature with teens, and suggests connecting the word "hobbit" with the word "habit" to underscore the need for teens to develop a reading habit. This year's dates for the celebration are October 14-20.

Now in its fourth year, Teen Read Week is a national literacy initiative of the Young Adult Library Services Association and its partners including the American Association of School Administrators, American Booksellers Association, National Association of Secondary School Principals, National Council of Teachers of English, National Education Association, Speak Up Press, International Reading Association, and Teenink.

The number of schools, public libraries, and bookstores that celebrate Teen Read Week has grown, and their programs and activities have helped to spread the message that teens need to "Read for the Fun of It." But the message is still an urgent one.

The latest reading test scores from the National Assessment for Educational Progress indicate reading scores have made no significant statistical gains since the 1970s. They also report that in 1999, a smaller percentage of 13- to 17-year-olds read for fun on a daily basis than did in 1971. In addition, the number of different types of reading materials available in homes has decreased, and a smaller percentage of 17-year-olds saw adults reading in their homes.

The website for Teen Read Week (<http://www.ala.org/teenread>) has been completely redesigned to provide information for anyone planning Teen Read Week activities. The information allows the user to go the "hobbit" route or the "habit" route, or both. Along with sample press releases and public service announcements, the site includes lists of recommended fantasy books, the "Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teen Readers," new sources of information about books and reading, and program ideas by state from across the country. A registration and feedback form for reporting this year's activities is available for librarians and teachers. There is also a special section just for teens with lists of books they will enjoy and a form for voting for the "best book read in 2001."

## Bi-Folkal kits from Wolfner Library

Wolfner Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped owns more than 20 Bi-Folkal kits for loan to public libraries, nursing homes, senior centers, and other agencies serving older adults. The kits are designed to stimulate the memories of older adults and to facilitate sharing stories from "days gone by." They are ideal for library programming.

Each kit has the same basic design and comes in a bag with everything needed to present a program including a manual, slide presentation, videos, activity sheets, and items relating to a topic.

Bi-Folkal kits can be checked out for six weeks for a single program or up to three months for multiple programs. For example, a public library could hold a program and then loan the kit to the Lion's Club or a church group. Wolfner Library will ship the kit at no charge to an institution, but the

borrowing institution must pay the return postage (\$3 to \$5 depending on the size of the kit).

Kits are available on topics such as automobiles, the Depression, farm days, fashion, African American lives, food, Jewish memories, the home front, music, school days, summertime, train rides, and work life.

For more information or to borrow a kit, contact the Wolfner Library at 800-392-2614 or 573-751-8720 or send an e-mail request to: [wolfner@sosmail.state.mo.us](mailto:wolfner@sosmail.state.mo.us).



## Web Watch

### Benefits Checkup

<http://www.benefitscheckup.org>

This site is a service of the U.S. National Council on Aging. It enables senior citizens to check on federal and state assistance programs and to find out about benefits to which they are entitled, regardless of income. When a user completes the confidential online forms, the site provides a list of links to programs that person could use to improve the quality of his or her life.

### BuzzWhack

<http://www.buzzwhack.com>

What's a buzzword? According to this site, it's "a usually important-sounding word or phrase used primarily to impress laypersons." For info on current buzzwords like "sheeple," "insourcing," "keypunch droppings," "dot-con," "word-of-mouse," and "bleeding edge," this is the site to visit. The site also includes a Whack of the Week Award to pompous offenders.

## StoryLines America travels to the Midwest

### A radio/library partnership exploring regional literature

In fall 2001, the American Library Association will present "StoryLines America," a book-based radio discussion series focusing on Midwestern literature, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, with additional funding from Barnes & Noble Booksellers.



The series will be broadcast on participating National Public Radio stations in the Midwest, including the states of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin. The StoryLines website will be <http://storylines.ala.org>.

StoryLines America is scheduled to air for one hour on Sunday evenings over a 13-week period beginning on October 7. Each of the 13 programs will feature the discussion of one book. Listeners can call a toll-free number to join the discussion on the air. Radio hosts will lead discussions of the selected books and conduct interviews with authors, historians, and storytellers, who will help listeners examine how their regional literature explores the beliefs and values that have shaped the Midwest.

Libraries and individuals should contact their local NPR station to let them know there is local public interest in the program. Radio stations heard about StoryLines America at the 2001 Public Radio Conference in Seattle in May.

### Missouri's public radio stations

KSMS—Branson	KXCV—Maryville
KRCU—Cape Girardeau	KUMR—Rolla
KRNW—Chillicothe	KDHX—St. Louis
KBIA—Columbia	KSMU—Springfield
KOPN—Columbia	KCMW—Warrensburg
KCUR—Kansas City	

The StoryLines America: Midwest booklist in program order:

1. *Townships*. Michael Martone, ed.
2. *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. Mark Twain
3. *Beloved*. Toni Morrison

(continued on page 4)

## State Library issues statistical reports

The State Library has published *Statistical Report of Missouri Libraries* for fiscal years 1998 and 1999.

Compiled by Ashley Moore, the State Library's statistical analyst, the two reports contain information reported to the State Library by public, academic, special, and institutional libraries in Missouri.

Included in each publication are statistics on income, expenditures for personnel, collections, and circulation. The statistics are also available on the State Library's website in XLS files for viewing and manipulation and in PDF files. To view the files, go to <http://www.sos.mo.gov/library/development/statistics/>.

## StoryLines America

(continued from page 3)

4. *Main Street*. Sinclair Lewis
5. *The Nick Adams Stories*. Ernest Hemingway
6. *Native Son*. Richard Wright
7. *A Sand County Almanac*. Aldo Leopold
8. *The Adventures of Augie March*. Saul Bellow
9. *Chicago Poems*, Carl Sandburg, and *Selected Poems*, Gwendolyn Brooks
10. *Them*. Joyce Carol Oates
11. *A Thousand Acres*. Jane Smiley
12. *The Antelope Wife*. Louise Erdrich
13. *The Feast of Love*. Charles Baxter

## New Missouri census info available

Census 2000 demographic profiles for states, counties, metropolitan areas, and municipalities were recently released by the U.S. Census Bureau. The information can be accessed at the Missouri Census Data Center website at <http://mcdc.missouri.edu> or the Census Bureau website at <http://www.census.gov>.

Missouri demographic profiles show the following for the year 2000:

- ◆ Out of a total Missouri population of 5,595,211, over one-half (51.4 percent) were female and 48.6 percent were male. Out of the total number of people age 65 and older in Missouri (755,379), 59 percent were female and 41 percent were male.
- ◆ 27.3 percent of householders in Missouri lived alone—17 percent were under age 65 and 10.3 percent were age 65 or older.
- ◆ 22.7 percent of Missouri households were married-couple families with their own children under age 18 living with them.
- ◆ 17.6 percent of Missouri's population were age 60 or older.
- ◆ Nearly one-fourth of Missouri households included at least one individual age 65 or older.
- ◆ Average household size in Missouri was

2.48 persons, compared with an average of 3.18 persons 50 years earlier, in 1950.

- ◆ Median age in Missouri was 36.1, slightly higher than the national median age of 35.3.
- ◆ Nearly one-third (29.9 percent) of Missouri's population resided within the state's two largest counties, St. Louis County and Jackson County.
- ◆ The total number of occupied housing units in Missouri was nearly 2.2 million (2,194,594). 70.3 percent were occupied by the owner; 29.7 percent were occupied by a renter. In addition to occupied housing units, 66,053 housing units (2.7 percent) were determined to be for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use, and 181,370 (7.4 percent) were vacant.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau and Missouri Census Data Center

## Great Book Giveaway

The Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) is accepting applications for the Great Book Giveaway. This is the sixth year YALSA has given away a year's supply of books, audiocassettes, films, and other materials appropriate for young adults, ages 12 through 18.

The collection materials consist of review copies submitted by publishers and producers for selection and award committees to review and nominate for the 2002 annual lists and awards. The value of the entire collection is estimated at \$25,000.

Further information and application forms are available at <http://www.ala.org/yalsa/awards/gbgvi.pdf> or from the YALSA office: [yalsa@ala.org](mailto:yalsa@ala.org); phone: 800-545-2433, ext. 4390. The deadline is December 1, 2001.

## Reading program targets young adults

All America Reads is a collaborative project designed to encourage young people (grades 8 to 12) to read and provide them with the skills and tools to do so. The project will engage competent middle and high



school readers as well as struggling and reluctant readers by providing them with the necessary strategies for comprehending a text. David Baldacci's *Wish You Well* has been selected as the 2001-2002 project text.

The strategies, developed for the classroom based upon the educational concepts designed by Kylene Beers at the University of Houston, have been reconfigured to meet the needs of young adults reading *Wish You Well*. Strategies and lesson plans will be available on the project's website at <http://www.allamericareads.org>.

The target level of participation will be students, educators, administrators, librarians, media specialists, and other school staff. The expanded audience will consist of libraries, book groups, literacy organizations, college students and faculty, and general readers.

Project partners and sponsors include the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, Friends of Libraries USA, Baker & Taylor, National Council of Teachers of English, National Education Association, and a variety of state agencies and media firms.

For more information, consult the website noted above or send an e-mail to: [info@allamericareads.org](mailto:info@allamericareads.org).

## Library success stories website debuts

The LSTA Success Stories website (<http://cs/ala.org/lsta>) contains a searchable database of stories about how Library Services and Technology Act funds have improved libraries throughout the country. The site is a collaborative effort between the Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies and the American Library Association Washington Office. It is searchable by state and Congressional district and will prove to be an invaluable tool to help secure future LSTA funds.

To enter a story about how LSTA funds have improved your library, first communicate by e-mail with Barbara Reading, director of the Library Development Division at the State Library and send her your success

story. Reading will then enter your story on the site.

You can access the site at <http://cs.ala.org/lsta>, or through a click-on link on the ALA Washington Office home page: <http://www.ala.org/washoff>.

## John Cotton Dana award competition opens for 2002

Competition is now open for the 2002 John Cotton Dana Library Public Relations Award contest, sponsored by the H.W. Wilson Company and the Library Administration and Management Association. The deadline for entries is December 28, 2001.

Presented annually since 1946, the award honors outstanding library public relations programs that support a specific project, goal or activity, or a sustained ongoing program. Examples might be the promotion of a summer reading program, a year-long centennial celebration, fundraising for a new college library, or an innovative partnership in the community.

The contest is open to all libraries and agencies that promote library service. Entries can be for calendar year 2001 (January-December), school year 2000-2001 (Fall-Spring), or any special project that ends in 2001. The awards will be presented during the 2002 American Library Association annual conference in Atlanta, Georgia.

Additional information and entry forms are available at <http://www.ala.org/lama/awards/jcd>,

## NEH to create online encyclopedias for states

The National Endowment for the Humanities has launched an initiative to create comprehensive online encyclopedias for all 50 states, all five U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia.

Fifteen states have been awarded NEH grants totaling \$731,000 for the planning of online encyclopedias. The grants will allow each grantee to develop a plan for designing an online publication in consultation with potential collaborating institutions, contributors, technical experts, and intended users.

Additional planning grants for online encyclopedias will be made later in the year. For more information about this initiative, contact Helen Aguera or Joseph Herring in the NEH Preservation and Access Division at 202-606-8570 or send an email to [preservation@neh.gov](mailto:preservation@neh.gov).

“Throughout my formal education, I spent many, many hours in public and school libraries. Libraries became courts of last resort, as it were. The current definitive answer to almost any question can be found within the four walls of most libraries.”

Arthur Ashe



**newsline** welcomes information for "Missouri Library News" and "Personal Notes" from librarians, library trustees, and others interested in the state's libraries. Send news about library events, projects, awards, and personnel changes to the editor. (See page 2 for contact information.)

### Branch briefs

#### **St. Louis Public Library celebrates branch reopening**

The Kingshighway Branch of the St. Louis Public Library has been completely rebuilt and reopened to the public. Local and state dignitaries, neighborhood residents, library officials and staff attended a grand opening celebration on May 6.

The all-new branch features many physical improvements. At 12,000 square feet, more than three times the size of the previous facility, the building will be easier and more efficient to use. Kingshighway offers a state-of-the-art Neighborhood Computer Center that contains new computers, software, free Internet access, and other equipment.

Additional amenities include enlarged public space (for seating and for adult and youth reading areas), expanded parking facilities, and updated collections of materials. Many of these improvements were the result of suggestions by area residents and Kingshighway patrons during a series of neighborhood focus groups.

Kingshighway is the latest in the library's series of capital improvement projects funded by a property tax increase approved by St. Louis voters in 1994. The plan calls for major renovations at every library location, including Central Library, over the next several years.



Shown above is a panoramic view of the Harmon Computer Commons, housed in the James C. Kirkpatrick Library at Central Missouri State University. The Commons includes four hands-on classrooms, an open lab, an information center, and a group work environment. It offers a variety of resources for the CMSU community including workshops, class instruction, technical support for on-site clients, and laptop rentals. (CMSU photo by Terry McNeeley)

Dr. Glen Holt, executive director of the library, said the Kingshighway Branch is the library's first facility "built from the ground up since the Julia Davis Branch opened eight years ago. Prior to Julia Davis, it had been 21 years since a new library building had been created for the system."

#### **Groundbreaking for River Bluffs branch**

On May 19, about 100 people attended a groundbreaking ceremony for the River Bluffs Regional Library's new East Side Branch in St. Joseph. The new branch will be built on five acres donated by Otho A. Barnes Jr. and Verda Barnes, and will replace the current overcrowded facility.

The library is embarking on a major building campaign, with renovations planned for four current facilities and construction of the East Side Branch. Voters approved an increase in the library levy in November 1999 to underwrite these improvements for the library system, which serves Andrew and Buchanan counties.

#### **Brentwood Branch marks 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary**

The Brentwood Branch of Springfield-Greene County Library celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary on April 26 with "snacks, nostalgia, fellowship and all kinds of groovy stuff," said reference associate Bill DeLong, who organized the event with children's assistant John Bradley. The staff dressed in bellbottoms and elevator shoes and created a 1970s environment in the branch, complete with lava lamps, pet rocks, and smiley faces. Promotion included a full-color "tie-dyed" commemorative bookmark.

The popular branch was dedicated on April 18, 1971, by Senator Thomas Eagleton.

#### **Webster County's new branch**

The Rogersville Branch of Webster County Library has opened in the former city hall building. As the county library's first directly supervised branch, Rogersville houses a collection of approximately 2,000 volumes, and offers children's toys, six computers for

Internet access, a community meeting room, and children's and adult programming.

Library director Lib Sims said the building renovation was made possible thanks to the city's donation of the building, generous donations from local businesses and individuals, and labor from the City of Rogersville and volunteers.

The library also maintains a small "depository branch" in Fordland.

### **Republic Branch moves to new location**

Springfield-Greene County Library's Republic Branch moved to a new location in a high-traffic area of a local strip mall. The location is closer to schools and has 8,000 square feet — 1,500 more than the previous library. It has two meeting rooms and plenty of parking, according to branch supervisor Jim Schmidt.

Schmidt said the new branch configuration will allow patrons to see the collection as a whole instead of scattered in sections all over the library. "Customers will benefit and be able to find what they want easier, and staff will benefit from an improved work flow," he said.

### **Keller Library named Employer of the Year**

The Keller Public Library of Dexter has received an Employer of the Year Award from Rehabilitation Services for the Blind for hiring a legally blind young man. The new employee assists with training library patrons on new computer equipment the library purchased with funds from a State Library Basic Equipment Grant.

### **Mid-Continent Library holds workshops for writers**

The Platte City Branch of Mid-Continent Public Library hosted four workshops during April to help "jumpstart any writing career." Each week a different local author spoke to participants about starting a novel, research, working with publishers, and other considerations for would-be writers.

Jim Farley, who has written three nonfiction books, explained how to go from wanting to write to the actual writing, with an emphasis on time management. Ruth Scofield Schmidt, a romance author, described how a person's life experiences can make good stories; and Sue Wright, a children's author and newspaper columnist, explained the editing process. The last workshop concentrated on understanding the publishing industry, how to get an agent, and marketing books. Branch librarian Karen Dwight said the workshops were extremely popular, with capacity audiences for each event. After the workshops, several participants formed a writing group which

*(continued on page 8)*



Richard Peck, 2001 Newbery Award-winning author, paid a surprise visit to The Library Center, Springfield-Greene County Library's "destination library" in May. Peck was visiting friends, who told him not to miss seeing the library. He received a library tour and signed copies of his books from the library's collection. He is shown outside the children's department.

### **Photo exhibit celebrates libraries**

A traveling exhibition of 21 prize-winning photographs from the national contest "Beyond Words: Celebrating America's Libraries" is available from the American Library Association. The photographs in the exhibition, taken by professional and amateur photographers, depict citizens of all ages using libraries.

Two copies of the traveling exhibit, which is co-sponsored by ALA and the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, are available for three-week display periods. For further information, contact the ALA Public Programs Office, at 800-545-2433, press 1, ext. 5053; fax: 312-944-2402, or send an e-mail to [bbarrera@ala.org](mailto:bbarrera@ala.org).

**More Library News**



## Library salary survey available



The 2001 Salary Survey—West North Central States has been published by the St. Charles City-County Library. Conducted annually since 1978, the survey covers Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Nebraska. It includes a variety of budget categories, various classification points, and for the first time, benefits.

To access the survey, go to [http://www.win.org/library/library\\_office/reports/salariesurvey/2001/index.html](http://www.win.org/library/library_office/reports/salariesurvey/2001/index.html).

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holds its meetings at the library. Dwight hopes to offer additional workshops on writing and publishing.

## MU Libraries acquires three millionth volume

The MU Libraries celebrated the addition of its three millionth volume, April 4, 2001, at a reception held in conjunction with its celebration of staff service —Celebrate@MU Libraries — in the Reynolds Alumni Center.

The three millionth volume, *The Navigator*, published in 1817 by Zadok Cramer, is a compilation of travelers' journals and reports which gave "directions for navigating the Monongahela, Alleghany, Ohio, and Mississippi Rivers with descriptions of villages, settlements, harbors and distances between points."

Addition of *The Navigator* is especially significant as the volume contains excerpts from the *Journal of Patrick Gass*, a member of the Lewis and Clark expedition. Cramer's account of the expedition first appeared six years before Lewis and Clark's own account was published. *The Navigator* contains detailed accounts of the Missouri and Columbia rivers and first-hand accounts of the New Madrid earthquake of 1812.

Acquisition of *The Navigator* was made possible by the contributions of family and friends to the Ruth C. Ellis Memorial Fund and monies from the Dr. Elmer Ellis and Ruth C. Ellis Fund. Mrs. Ellis, wife of the late University of Missouri president emeritus Elmer Ellis (for whom Ellis Library was named), was an ardent supporter of the MU Libraries and its mission.

## California (MO) library promotes fire safety

The Wood Place Public Library in California sponsored a battery giveaway during a week in April to promote fire safety awareness. Librarian Lisa Marshall gave local residents nine-volt batteries to remind them to change the batteries in their smoke detec-

tors. Co-sponsoring the giveaway with the library was a bank, a construction company, and the California Fire Department. The fire chief will keep the extra batteries on hand for distribution and assist in installation of smoke detectors, if needed.

The fire department mounted an exhibit at the library that presented old equipment, information on the department's history, brochures on fire safety, and an old newspaper article detailing the department's establishment in 1911.

## Free library lends toys, equipment

A unique library in Columbia lends toys, materials, and other children's resources to parents and caregivers. Sponsored by Educare, the Lend and Learn Toy Library is a free resource to Boone County families with preschool-age children. Since its opening in June 2000, the library has served almost 1,000 families, expanded its onsite facilities, and plans to staff a toy lending library in Centralia.

Children can try out toys at the library or borrow them for up to a month. The library lends baby equipment such as high chairs, safety gates, and playpens, which can be checked out for up to six months. Daycare centers are frequent users of the library to increase the selection of toys available to their young charges.

Tammy Byington, resource specialist for Educare, says the library purchased approximately \$60,000 in new toys and equipment last fiscal year. Funding for the toy library comes from riverboat gambling proceeds earmarked for early childhood programs (House Bill 1519), given in a grant to the Boone County Community Childcare Consortium. Byington will apply for another grant to fund the library after June 30.

## St. Louis County Library sponsors literary events

During "Get Caught Reading Month" in May, the St. Louis County Library sponsored a variety of author appearances at its headquarters and branches. Five branch li-



braries in the system observed the month, which is sponsored annually by the Association of American Publishers to encourage reading for enjoyment. Each of the libraries placed a ballot box for patrons to vote for their favorite book, and ballots were drawn and winners given copies of books autographed by one of the authors who spoke at Headquarters during the month.

Guest authors at Headquarters were Alexandra Villard de Borchgrave, who wrote *Villard: The Life and Times of An American Titan*; William Least Heat-Moon, whose latest book *Riverhorse* was on The New York Times Bestseller List as was his *Blue Highways*; and Michael Kahn, mystery writer and lawyer, whose series features Rachel Gold, a St. Louis lawyer.

Other events at the library included presentations by Jane Henderson, Eileen Dreyer, and Betty Pavlige. Henderson, the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* book editor, spoke during a meeting of the Oak Bend [Branch Library] Bookies about her job, how she got started in the field, and how she chooses reviewers. The Bookies, Oak Bend's original book discussion group formed in 1997, often invites authors and poets to its meetings. Dreyer, nationally known suspense writer and romance writer (under Kathleen Korbel), is a former forensic nurse, who has received many awards for her novels. She was a guest of the Florissant Valley [Branch Library] Book Discussion Club. Pavlige, author of *Growing Up in Souard* and *Souard's Second Century*, spoke at the Weber Road Branch about her life in the historic Souard area of the city.

## Settlement reached on Wilder books

The Wright County Library's lawsuit claiming royalties to works by Laura Ingalls Wilder has been settled, with the library to receive an \$875,000 settlement. Harper-Collins and Wilder's heirs agreed to settle, calling the amount a "contribution." The settlement ends 18 months of complex litigation over claims to the copyrights of one of the country's most popular authors.

Wilder had left the copyrights to her daughter, Rose Wilder Lane, and then to the library after her daughter's death. But Lane left the copyrights to a friend, who left them to his daughter. The library board said that Wilder wanted the copyrights to go to the library, and filed a federal lawsuit claiming ownership of all of Wilder's copyrights. The settlement calls for the library to renounce any copyright claims to Wilder's books.

The money realized from the settlement (minus legal and other fees) will be used to improve the library facilities and improve patron services in the rural county system, including the Laura Ingalls Library in Mansfield.

## Palmer Library dedicates youth wing

The Joseph R. Palmer Family Memorial Library in Elsberry recently held a dedication and open house for its new youth wing addition. Financed entirely through a local campaign, the addition was completed early this year. Volunteers built shelving in the addition, and other volunteers moved books, furniture, and equipment into the area.

The addition houses books for young people ages seven through high school. It also provides study carrels, tables, and a three-island computer area with public access computers. It is connected to the original library building by a new reference and public access computer lab.

A special feature in the addition are four stained-glass windows, funded by local donors and created by Sherrill Edelen. The windows are titled "The Call of the Wild," "Pilgrim's Progress," "Huck Finn," and "Roses."

## SMSU's Meyer Library receives honors

**1** The Duane G. Meyer Library of Southwest Missouri State University is the 2001 recipient of the John Sessions Memorial Award for "Ozark Labor Union Archives" (OLUA). The award is presented



- ✿ Public libraries are the number one point of online access for people without Internet connections at home, school, or work.
- ✿ If the cost of gas had risen as fast as the cost of academic library periodicals since 1990, it would cost \$3.00 a gallon to put fuel in your car.
- ✿ Ninety-five percent of Missouri residents have access to a public library.

**More Library News**





Tyson Garvin unveils a Route 66 commemorative marker at the Joplin Public Library while his sister Neely Garvin, and their father, Phil Garvin, observe. The marker was dedicated, in part, to the memory of Burl and Ceola Garvin, the last owners of the Connor Hotel, which overlooked Route 66 in Joplin, and to Will Rogers, in whose memory the highway was named after his death. Several celebrations will be held across the state in 2001 commemorating the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Route 66. (*Joplin Globe* photo by Vince Rosati)

by the Reference and User Services Association, a division of the American Library Association. The award recognizes a library or library system that has made a significant effort to work with the labor community and to recognize the history and contribution of the labor movement to the development of the country.

"This award is really a tribute to the efforts of Neal Moore and the late David Lages as they laid the foundation for this award in 1983 when they began this project," said David Richards, assistant professor of library administration at SMSU. Moore is an adjunct faculty member in library science, and Lages was a professor of economics.

The archives are currently housed in the basement of Glass Hall on the SMSU campus, but will be moved to the new addition of the library upon its completion. The archives contains records, unpublished materials and manuscripts. The collection is the largest archive of its type in the Ozarks region and is used by students, faculty, and historians. Union members conduct research using the archives to prepare for negotiations of contracts or wage issues.

"The Duane G. Meyer Library of Southwest Missouri State University exists in a region of relatively weak union activity and low wages," said award committee chair Ann Sparanese. "Over a period of 17 years, the Ozark Labor Union Archives has developed itself as a major repository for labor and working class records and collections."

"OLUA has developed an active outreach component that promotes understanding and appreciation of labor history," Sparanese continued. "It was this excellent duality, archival collection and outreach program, including a student essay contest sponsored by the OLUA and the American Postal Workers Union Local 888, that made the OLUA stand out as the winner."

**2** The Meyer Library has been designated as a full United Nations depository to receive printed publications and masthead documents of the United Nations. The Working Committee of the Unit-

ed Nations Publications Board designated Meyer Library as a depository at its 359<sup>th</sup> meeting in December 2000.

Karen Horny, dean of SMSU library services, said this award places Meyer Library in select company worldwide. "SMSU is proud to be the 43<sup>rd</sup> U.N. Depository in the United States and the only one in Missouri. Worldwide there are 388 depositories for the United Nations, and SMSU is the only library in the U.S. to have achieved depository status in the year 2000."

SMSU will receive documents from all areas of the United Nations, including the General Assembly, the Security Council, and the Economic and Social Council, as well as general documents published by the United Nations.

In addition to receiving official U.N. depository status, Meyer Library has also acquired a retrospective collection of U.N. publications from California State University-Chico. This collection includes Readex microcards, microfiche, and indexes covering the years 1946-1994.

Byron Stewart, head of the government documents department at Meyer Library, said "These documents aren't just for faculty and students. As the only library in Missouri, Arkansas, and Oklahoma with U.N. depository status, we will strive to meet any and all requests for information in fulfilling our public affairs mission."

Those needing United Nations information may call Meyer Library staff at 417-836-4532 or send e-mail to [acf908t@smsu.edu](mailto:acf908t@smsu.edu).

## Springfield friends sell books...and more books

The Springfield-Greene County Library's Friends of the Library have a history of holding successful book sales, and this year was no exception. The friends' 10-day book sale, held in late April-early May at a local mall, offered approximately 60,000 books arrayed on more than 100 tables. The friends earned \$37,150 from the sale, which was the fifth biggest sale in the Friends' 17-year history.

The Friends have made over \$424,000 from the annual sales, all of which went toward library improvements and programs. The money has helped to renovate several children's departments and to fund the Wee Read early childhood literacy program, the children's and young adults' summer reading programs, and the library system's plant service.

## Developing a new talking book machine

The National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) and the Industrial Designers Society of America (IDSA) will challenge student designers to create the next generation of digital talking book playback machines.

The student design competition, scheduled to begin January 1, 2001, could result in a unique product that will help thousands of visually impaired and otherwise disabled people enjoy books and magazines each year. Close to a million new machines will be produced in the first 10 years after their

introduction.

NLS has approximately 730,000 cassette talking book playback machines in use worldwide today (15,674 in Missouri) and maintains an inventory of more than 23 million copies of audio books and magazines. Under the U.S. copyright law, NLS is permitted to mail the recordings and the playback equipment free of charge to any U.S. citizen who qualifies.

The first talking book playback machines, dating back to 1933, played 33 1/3 rpm records, which were invented for the NLS talking book program. Analog cassette playback machines made their appearance in the 1970s.

The new digital playback equipment will be specifically tailored to the disabled, while adhering to the principles of universal design. The equipment also must be intuitive to use, have a tolerance for operator error, and require a low level of physical effort on the part of the user.

A jury assembled by NLS and IDSA will select the winning designs, which will be announced in July 2002.



Springfield-Greene County Library's Community Relations Department set up an exhibit titled "I'm not much of a reader...What else can I do at the Library?" in the lobby of a downtown building at the request of the city's public information office. The exhibit depicted the many resources available to citizens through their library.

## Upcoming Events



**August 7-10**  
Library Skills Institute  
Columbia

**August 16-25**  
International Federation of  
Library Associations and  
Institutions  
General Conference  
Boston

**September 8**  
International Literacy Day

**September 22-29**  
Banned Books Week

**September 25-26**  
Missouri Census Data Center  
Annual Conference  
Columbia

**September 27**  
Secretary's Council on  
Library Development  
Meeting  
Jefferson City

**October 3-5**  
Missouri Library Association  
Annual Conference  
St. Louis

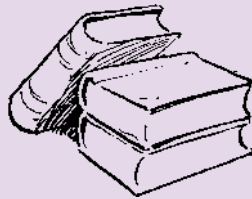
**October 14-20**  
Teen Read Week

**November 1**  
National Family Literacy Day

## Books and reading in the digital world

See Clifford Lynch's article, "The Battle to Define the Future of the Book in the Digital World," in the online journal *First Monday* (June 4, 2001). Lynch discusses "competing visions" for the future of the book, and addresses questions about the "social implications of controls over intellectual property, such as continuity of cultural memory." The article may be found at <http://www.firstmonday.org>.

Lynch is director of the Coalition for Networked Information and was a key speaker at the Missouri Center for the Book's Third Celebration of the Book in 1999, which focused on the future of the book.



## Book prices increase

	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>
<b>Hardcover</b> (children's and YA titles)		
Average price (all titles)	\$16.66	\$17.57
Preschool to grade 4	\$15.97	\$15.55
Grade 5 and up (fiction)	—	\$15.91
Grade 5 and up (nonfiction)	—	\$21.26
<b>Paperback</b> (children's and YA titles)		
Trade paperbacks	\$8.15	\$8.41
<b>Hardcover</b> (adult titles)		
Fiction	\$21.92	\$22.53
Nonfiction	\$50.82	\$51.75
<b>Paperback</b> (adult titles)		
Fiction	\$13.49	\$13.88
Nonfiction	\$24.06	\$24.67

Sources: *Publishers Weekly* and *School Library Journal*

Some 2.2 billion books are sold in the U.S. each year, about 1.4 billion of them in paperback. However, because of their higher cost, hardcover books bring in more money, outselling paperbacks 17 billion to 12 billion dollars.

**Missouri State Library**  
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